

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14535 101502Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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R 101322Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5422

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, ENRG, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET ORDER OF ORENBURG GAS PIPELINE COMPRESSORS

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

REF: STATE 240287

1. ON BASIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO COMMERCIAL OFFICE, REPORT REFTTEL ON SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING TURBINES/COMPRESSORS FOR ORENBURG GAS PIPELINE APPEARS CORRECT.

2. BASIC MOTIVATION FOR SOVIET DECISION TO PLACE ORDER FOR TURBINES/COMPRESSORS WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC AND ITS LICENSEES APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR GE'S TWO-SHAFT DESIGN. SOVIET EXPERTS APPEARENTLY DECIDED THAT WESTINGHOUSE'S SINGLE-SHAFT DESIGN WAS LESS DESIRABLE. SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS HAVE ARISEN DURING LAST FEW WEEKS IN CONECTION WITH OFFER BY MITSUBITSHI OF TWO-SHAFT TURBINE WHICH RESPESENTS REDESIGN OF WESTINGHOUSE'S BASIC SINGLE-SHAFT UNIT. JAPANESE ARE REPORTEDLY OFFERING VERY ATTRACTIVE PRICES, BUT FACT THAT NEW MITSUBITSHI TURBINE IS ONLY NOW UNDERGOING FIELD TESTS WORKS AGAINST JAPANESE IN THIS CASE.

3. AS COMMERCIAL OFFICE HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ORENBURG PIPELINE CALLED FOR 22 COMPRESSOR STATIONS, 21 OF WHICH WOULD HAVE THREE 25-MW TURBINE/COMPRSSORS AND ONE (AT THE HEAD OF THE LINE) OF WHICH WOULD HAVE FOUR 25-MW

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TURBINE/COMPRESSORS. UNDER THIS VARIANT, TWO OF THE UNITS IN EACH

OF THE 21 DOWN-LINE STATIONS WOULD BE IN USE AT ANY GIVEN TIME AND
THIRD WOULD BE RESERVE. SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY HAD SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION OF HAVING 25-MW OF RESERVE
CAPACITY IN EACH STATION, AND THEY HAVE RECENTLY GONE TO GE AND
ITS LICENSEES WITH A REQUEST FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL BASED
ON STATIONS WITH SIX 10MW TURBINE/COMPRESSORS. UNDER THIS VARIANT,
EACH STATION WOULD HAVE ONE 10-MW TURBINE/COMPRESSOR IN RESERVE AT
ALL TIMES. DRESSER INDUSTRIES REP SUGGESTED THAT HIS VARIANT,
WHICH WOULD INVOLVE GAIN IN INITIAL COST AND LOSS IN OPERATING
EFFICIENCY, REFLECTED EFFORT BY SOVIETS TO FIND WAY TO REDUCE
INITIAL HARD-CURRENCY OUTLAYS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, EQUIPMENT, PETROLEUM PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW14535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750353-0500
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751062/aaaaccqj.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 240287
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ORDER OF ORENBURG GAS PIPELINE COMPRESSORS USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, ENRG, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006